

It's Smart To Be ~~Gallery~~ Wise!

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THE WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON GALLERY OF ART

AND ATKINS MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

JUN 12 1931

N E W S

F L A S H E S

June 15 - July 15, 1935

14th INTERNATIONAL WATERCOLOUR SHOW: Each year the Art Institute of Chicago assembles the greatest group of watercolours and drawings by international artists ever gathered together through the year. Last summer we were fortunate to be included on the list of galleries to which the nucleus of this show was sent, and it was one of our most popular loan exhibitions of the year. The 1935 selection, which has just been shown in Chicago for two months, has been secured and will open in the Loan Galleries on Sunday, June 16th, remaining for one month until July 15th.

The medium of watercolour is one of the most fascinating and trickiest that the artist attempts, and few men are truly successful with it. It has a freshness of execution, and allows no changes as can be done when working in oil. The group of works included in the exhibition this year, proves that a number of great artists whose paintings are well known to us, have successfully mastered the medium. Over one hundred artists from all over the world are represented, and in addition to a large group of American painters, those of Austria, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Jugoslavia, Mexico and Spain have contributed.

The list of names of the foreign artists who are represented reads like a roster of the great. There is Maurice de Vlaminck, the dramatic painter of nature who carries on the emotional quality of Van Gogh, George Grosz, the satirical German artist whose powerful caricatures are often a condemnation of war, Georg Kolbe who is perhaps one of the greatest living sculptors and Karl Schmidt-Rottluff who is one of the most powerful of German painters, and a master of boldly vigorous watercolours. Augustus John of England has contributed a portrait, and Dame Laura Knight sends a spirited comment on circus life.

The American group is particularly fine this year, and includes such names as Thomas Hart Benton, who will come to the Art Institute to teach this fall, Ward Lockwood, the Kansas artist who will paint the murals for the new postoffice at Wichita, and Randall Davey who taught at the Art Institute and is well known in Kansas City. Other names are, Constantine Pougialis, who won the Tuthill prize, Frank W. Benson, Stuart Davis, Adolf Dehn, Ernest Fiene, John Greh, Stefan Hirsch, Rockwell Kent, Reginald Marsh and William Zorach.

It is a show that should not be missed by anyone interested in the contemporary art movements.

THE TEMPTATION OF SAINT ANTHONY: One of the rarest artists in the 15th century art of Flanders is Hieronimous Bosch. He is a decided individual and the Billy Sunday of his age. He stems from no earlier artists, and most of his works are powerful condemnations of the sins of the day and exhortations to his fellowmen to avoid the horrors of hell which he pictures with such realism.

The Masterpiece of the Week for June 16th is a small panel by his hand, depicting the Temptation of Saint Anthony who was so sorely tried by the devil. In it, we see the saint about to fill a crock with water at a small stream. On it we see a swan that has turned into a table loaded with tempting food, the water is full of strange beasts, a funnel with legs and arms reminds him of the evil of wine, and in the foreground we see an imaginative figure that might well be the forerunner of Donald Duck!

PAIR OF CHINESE BRONZE HORSES: The love of the Chinese for the horse is common knowledge, and this ubiquitous animal has been depicted in sculpture and painting from the earliest times. He figures in large numbers in the figurines found in all the tombs, and some artists have devoted all their talents to painting him in different moods. It is rare, however, that we find him in bronze from a period

The Masterpiece for the week of June 23rd will be a pair of bronze horses, which not only show the great ability of the Chinese to cast bronze, but also give us a very clear picture of the type of horse which was used at that time, which in its short legs and barrel-like body, differs from the finer breeds for which the Chinese later waged wars in order to have them for their popular polo games.

CURATOR OF THE ORIENTAL DEPARTMENT: The Gallery is happy to welcome to its staff, Laurence Sickman, who has just been appointed Curator of the Oriental Department. Mr. Sickman has just returned from five years in China and will be of invaluable assistance in cataloguing and interpreting the Chinese collection which is fast becoming one of the most important out of Asia. It is already attracting world-famous scholars and collectors to Kansas City, as was demonstrated in the recent visit of Mr. Eumorfopoulos and Mr. Hobson of London.

SAMUEL KIRK SILVER: Through the courtesy of Walter M. Jaccard, a group of early silver designed and made by Samuel Kirk of Baltimore is being exhibited in Gailery XV. Kirk, who was descended from English silversmiths, set up his shop in Baltimore as early as 1815 and the firm continued to function there until 1925 when they moved to larger quarters. Included are the famous Lafayette Goblets, ordered by the French General in 1824 to present to his host David Williamson, and a number of examples of the repoussé work which the house of Kirk made so popular in America.

PERSIAN MINIATURES: Gallery XXIV has been hung with an important group of Persian Miniatures, lent by H. Kevorkian of New York, which tells the story of this most individual and distinctive art. In addition to fine examples of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries when the art was at its zenith, there is a group of the famous Automatum Prints, which are illustrations from a book which gives designs for various mechanical machines, and show how ingenious the Persian artists were.

ILLUSTRATED BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS: Gallery XIII has just been installed with a special showing from the permanent collection of illustrated books, illuminations, and examples of the earliest printing from the famous presses of 15th century Europe. Included are a page from the Gutenberg Bible, an early page from Caxton, a fine copy of the Nurenburg Chronicle, and an exquisite Book of Hours with delicate miniatures of the Passion of Christ.

ENGLISH POTTERY: Through the cooperation and generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Burnap, Gallery XVIII has been installed with a group of Wedgwood Pottery from their collection, which is the finest complete group in America. The classically restrained forms and the delicacy of the cameo-like decoration, make this pottery one of the finest groups of ceramics ever produced. To those of us who know only the typical blue Wedgwood, these pieces in pale lavender, terra cotta, green, agate and cafe au lait will be a pleasant surprise. It comprises an exhibition rich in beauty and artistic value.

FINE PRINTS: The Masterpieces for the month of July will be a group of outstanding Fine Prints, for the most part just acquired by the Gallery. The aim will be to acquaint the visitor with the history of print making, and to call attention to the very distinguished group that is slowly being acquired for the permanent collection.

For the week of June 30th, the Masterpiece will be a fine and rich impression of Martin Schongauer's "Christ on the Road to Calvary", which is one of his early and most beautiful plates. Schongauer is one of the first great masters of the burin, and with him the art developed into an importance that ranked it with painting and sculpture.

The Last Supper by the Netherlands Master of Zwolle will be the Masterpiece for the week of July 7th. This print, surely the greatest from his hand, is without doubt the most important in the collection of the Gallery. It is one of only nine of the same subject, and has the unique distinction of being the only perfect one in existence, and in addition, a very rich and even impression. Its importance is such that hereafter no writer can mention the work of this great artist without referring to this impression in Kansas City.

June 15 - July 15, '35

GIFTS: Mrs. Sidney C. Partridge has just presented the Gallery a rare Japanese 17th century Lacquer Box in memory of her husband, the last Bishop Partridge.

A Paisley Shawl and a fine Black Lace Shawl, both formerly belonging to her mother, have been presented by Miss Amanda P. I. Kennedy.

CHINESE GALLERY: Several changes have been made in the Chinese Gallery, notably the great T'ang Pottery Lohan has been elevated onto its original base and given a place of prominence in the gallery between a fine Han Stone and a figure from the caves of T'ien Lung Shan, both being shown for the first time. A group of early sculpture, which cannot be equalled by any museum in this country, has been installed on the west wall of the gallery, and includes the great Lung Men Lion, a Tryptich, the Flying Apsara, and the Varapala from T'ien Lung Shan, and the exquisite gold lacquer Kwan Yin which was recently featured as a Masterpiece.

The collection of 18th century furniture has been installed in the second floor corridor, and with it is being shown for the first time, a great twelve foot coremandel screen, perhaps the finest out of China.

In the Chinese Porcelain room there has been installed a case of early jades, pottery and gilt bronzes that present the genius of the beginnings of Chinese art. No other museum in the country can present such rare examples in these fields.

CHILDRENS' CLASSES: The summer courses for children will open on Tuesday June 18 and will run for two months. Registration in these is limited, and the classes will be devoted to a greater understanding and appreciation of the collections.

GALLERY TOURS: The daily gallery tours will be discontinued for the summer, with the exception of the Tuesday lecture at three o'clock on the Masterpiece of the Week.

The Wednesday evening openings and lectures have also been discontinued for the summer months, but will be resumed the first of October.

The Director, Mr. Paul Gardner, will sail on June 29th for a ten weeks trip to Europe to visit the important museums there and to see the many special exhibitions being held in Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam and Venice.

Mr. Richard Freeman of the staff sailed on June 15th to accept the scholarship for the summer courses at the Sorbonne, awarded him by the Carnegie Foundation.

6/19/35 Chas. J. Smith

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